



Xerox Docket No.: D/99675

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Christian G. VAN DE WALLE

Application No.: 09/682,174

Filed: July 31, 2000

For: SEMICONDUCTOR STRUCTURES HAVING REDUCED CONTACT RESISTANCE

Group Art Unit: 2823

Examiner: L. Pham

Docket No.: 108901

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Further to the December 17 telephonic interview with Examiner Pham, and in reply to the November 20, 2002 Restriction Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Group II, claims 1-16, with traverse.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the December 17 telephonic interview with Examiner Pham. The points discussed are incorporated into the following remarks.

As a preliminary matter, claims 1-16 and claims 17-20 cannot be subject to a restriction requirement under MPEP §806.05(g). MPEP §806.05(g) pertains to an apparatus and a product made by the apparatus. However, claims 17-20 do not pertain to an apparatus for making the semiconductor device claimed in claims 1-16. Therefore, the cited MPEP section is not applicable to the pending claims.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that claims 1-16 and claims 17-20 are combination and sub-combination claims. More importantly, claims 17-20 depend from independent

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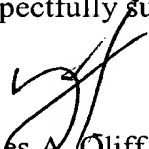
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claim 1, and thus, claims 17-20 are linking claims. Stated differently, because claims 17-20 depend from independent claim 1, these claims cannot be subject to a restriction requirement. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further needs to be discussed in order to further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Yong S. Choi
Registration No. 43,324

JAO:YSC/sdb

Date: December 19, 2002

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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